BRITISH COLUMBIA BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-04 January 25th, 2013

- **Prices in British Columbia rose 0.4% in December**
- **Investment in new housing construction jumped 9.6% in November**
- **British Columbia retailers saw revenues edge up 0.3% in November**

Prices

- **Consumer prices in British Columbia climbed 0.4% between December 2011 and December 2012.** Higher prices for food (+1.3%) and household operations & furnishings (+1.6%) were the main drivers of inflation in December, but were offset by downward pressure on energy prices (-0.4%). Excluding energy, consumer prices in B.C. would have risen 0.5% in December.

  The cost of food (+1.3%) continued to rise as both restaurant meals (+2.1%) and grocery bills (+1.0%) took a larger bite out of household budgets. Meat (+3.6%), fish & other seafood products (+3.3%), and fresh fruit (+3.1%) all saw notable price hikes compared to the previous year, while fresh vegetable (-6.3%) and non-alcoholic beverage (-4.7%) prices declined.

  Prices associated with shelter declined for the seventh straight month (-0.6%) in December, due to a drop in home ownership costs (-1.8%). Prices associated with rental accommodations rose 1.7%.

  Transportation cost consumers 0.7% more, as private (+0.5%) and public (+1.5%) transportation prices both increased. Consumers paid less for gasoline (-1.9%) and auto vehicle parts (-0.2%).

  Overall prices for clothing & footwear were flat (+0.0%) following two months of decline, as costs associated with clothing (-1.6%) and footwear (-0.7%) tumbled, while accessory (+4.6%) and clothing material prices (+5.4%) continued to rise. Health & personal care (-0.1%) and alcohol & tobacco product (-0.4%) costs were lower in December. Meanwhile, recreation, education and reading took a larger slice out of household budgets (+0.6%)

- **Nationally, consumer prices rose 0.8% for the second month in a row.** B.C. saw the second lowest rate of inflation in the country, as Alberta recorded no change (+0.0%). Nova Scotia (+1.8%) and Quebec (+1.5%) recorded the largest jumps in prices, followed by Ontario (+0.8%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The annual inflation rate in British Columbia was 1.1% in 2012, the lowest in three years.** While food (+2.2%) and energy (+2.3%) prices continued to rise, the price of shelter (-0.1%) edged down. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Wholesalers in British Columbia registered a 1.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) decline in revenue in November.** Weakened sales across industries, particularly motor vehicles (-9.9%), building materials & supplies (-5.5%), and food, beverage & tobacco products (-2.0%) were behind the decrease.

  At the national level, wholesale sales were up (+0.7%), despite slowdowns in seven provinces. Strong revenues in Alberta (+0.8%) and Ontario (+2.1%) accounted for most of the increase in dollar terms. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Retail sales in British Columbia edged up 0.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November.** Retailers of electronics & appliances, health & personal care products, furniture & home furnishings, and miscellaneous goods saw sales increase in November. However, the overall

Report No report this issue

Did you know...

British Columbians rank slightly above the national average (68%) in agreement with the Canadian Government's decision to take the penny out of circulation in 2013, with 71% stating they agree, 24% disagree, and 6% are unsure. *Source: Angus Reid*

increase was held back by declines in sales at food & beverage stores, motor vehicle and parts dealers, and general merchandise stores.

Nationally, retail sales rose 0.2%, carried by Ontario (+0.4%), and Nova Scotia (+1.2%). Sales in Quebec (-0.1%) and Alberta (+0.0%) were virtually flat.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in new housing construction in British Columbia increased 9.6% in November, compared to the same month in the previous year.** The rise was chiefly due to a rise in apartment construction (+38.2%), as investment in single (-7.1%), double (-3.4%), and row (-14.3%) housing fell.

  Nationally, investment in new housing construction rose 9.3% in November, bolstered by apartment (+29.7%) and double family dwelling (+23.7%) construction, as investment in the largest component, single family dwellings, shrank 2.6%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Visitor entries to Canada through British Columbia fell 2.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November.** Fewer entries from overseas (-5.3%), particularly Europe (-20.7%), as well as same day (-0.7%) and overnight (-1.9%) visits from the US (-1.4%), contributed to the decrease.

  Nationally, non-resident entries to Canada dipped 2.4% in November, entirely due to a decline in visits from the US (-1.0%), which fell for the third straight month. Entries from the rest of the world climbed 1.1%, the second increase in as many months.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Education

- **Total enrolment in public postsecondary institutions in British Columbia increased 2.6% in the 2010/2011 academic year, just a hair below the national increase (+2.7%).** Enrolments rose slightly faster for male students (+3.3%), though female enrolment (+2.0%) has remained consistently higher. Full-time (+3.8%) and part-time (+1.2%) enrolment increased, following opposing rates recorded in the previous period (-1.1% and +39.5%, respectively). Universities, which recorded enrolment of 173,583 students, saw an increase of 2.9%, while colleges saw enrolment rise 1.9%, to 93,165.

  The number of graduates of public postsecondary institutions swelled 5.2% in the 2010/2011 academic year. The rise in the number of male graduates (+7.2%) outpaced that of female graduates (+3.8%). College graduation increased 6.2%, well above the 4.7% rise in university graduation.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Nationally, enrolments in public postsecondary institutions rose 2.7% in the 2010/2011 academic year.** Enrolment was up in every province except Saskatchewan (-0.7%). Ontario (+2.1%), Quebec (+3.0%), Alberta (+2.0%), and Nova Scotia (+5.0%) along with B.C. (+2.6%) saw modest growth in enrolment. Much of the increase was recorded in programs in social and behavioural sciences & law (+4.1%), business, management & public administration (+2.0%), and health, parks, recreation & fitness (+5.2%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of graduates of public postsecondary institutions in Canada rose 4.1% in the 2010/2011 academic year, supported by increases in all but two provinces, Saskatchewan (-5.8%) and PEI (-3.7%).** Institutions in Ontario (+5.5%), Quebec (+3.3%), New Brunswick (+10.6%), and Nova Scotia (+5.7%) saw the strongest increase in the number of graduates. Programs in business, management & public administration (+5.3%), architecture, engineering & related technologies (+5.8%), and health, parks, recreation & fitness (+6.0%), which together account for nearly half (47%) of all graduates, saw moderate increases. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

***Infoline** Issue: 13-04*
January 25th, 2013

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

January 25, 2013
Issue 13-04

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov 2012	3,297	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2012	2,742	0.2
Retail Sales - Nov 2012	5,093	0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Dec 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.4	1.1
Vancouver	0.5	1.3
Victoria	0.2	1.0
Canada	0.8	1.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	0.6	
Labour Force - BC	2,474.3	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,313.3	0.0
Unemployed - BC	161.0	-3.9
		Nov 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.5	6.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 23/2013	Jan 25/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 23/2013	Jan 25/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9986	1.0120
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9990	0.9965
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2012	one year ago
BC	868.09	1.5
Canada	873.15	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Open Data, 2011 Census, Language Data

The fourth and final data release from the 2011 Census. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index, December 2012

To Release next week

- Business Indicators
- Tourism Sector Monitor

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca